

**TEXT-BOOK OF SURGICAL TREATMENT.** Edited by C. F. Illingworth, C.B.E., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.). (Pp. 744 + xii; figs. 381. 45s.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1952.

THE fourth edition of this already well known text-book of surgical treatment is highly recommended. It will be greatly appreciated by the senior medical student and those post-graduate students wishing to specialise in surgery. An effort to keep abreast of the ever-widening field of surgery has been made; each chapter has been carefully revised and many greatly amplified. Unlike previous editions, where operations were merely mentioned, particular attention is paid in this volume to the technical details of those operations which come within the scope of the general surgeon. These are well illustrated, and add greatly to the value of the book.

The introduction of chapters on the surgical management of congenital heart disease and arterial hypertension is timely, and can be recommended to physician and surgeon. The book is well written, well illustrated and essentially practical. E. M.

**BRAIN METABOLISM AND CEREBRAL DISORDERS.** By H. E. Himwich, M.D. (Pp. xii + 452; figs. 52. 46s. 6d.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1951.

DR. HIMWICH'S original work on the role of carbohydrate metabolism in cerebral functioning both in health and in abnormal states, such as hypoglycaemia and anoxia, is well known and his book is most welcome as providing a detailed and thoughtful review of present-day thought. The opening chapters deal with the methods by which in health energy is acquired to maintain neural activity and the variations that occur in the new-born, in hypoglycaemia and anoxia. The brain is the limiting factor in the ability to withstand anoxia, and the thesis is developed that its resistance depends chiefly upon the energy that can be obtained anaerobically through glycolysis. Both the anaerobic and the aerobic production of energy rise as growth proceeds. But, as the latter exceeds the former, the adult brain, though never losing its anaerobic resources shows poorer ability to withstand anoxia than that of the new-born. The practical applications of these and other biochemical principles are discussed in later chapters in relation to such procedures as fever therapy in general paralysis, thyroid treatment in cretinism, the action of anoxiants and convulsants, insulin therapy.

The book is well produced and should be read by all post-graduate students specially interested in neurophysiology, neurology and psychiatry. A graceful tribute is paid to Hughlings Jackson, whose portrait appropriately has been selected for the frontispiece. R. S. A.

**BACTERIA.** By K. A. Bisset, D.Sc. (Pp. 123; figs. 38. 20s.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1952.

THIS book is of more interest to the general microbiologist than the medical bacteriologist, whose range is more or less limited to those micro-organisms which are the agents of disease. It deals mainly with morphology and its range is wide, including not only the species pathogenic to man but those which are of interest to the agricultural and industrial bacteriologists.

So far as the medical bacteriologist is concerned, this varied content may well prove of assistance in dealing with the more unusual contaminants arising in cultures from time to time which may lead perhaps to confusion and unnecessary labour.

The information provided by the text is succinct and clear, and has the effect of making one wish there was more of it. The illustrations are very well done, the book is well produced and delightful to handle.

The conservative bacteriologist would hardly choose to put this book in the hands of his students since Dr. Bissett does not accept as valid many of the orthodox views held by teachers of the subject, but in the hands of the more experienced workers it should provide a stimulus to thought and further research. E. O. B.